

State of North Carolina
Department of Cultural Resources
Division of Historical Resources
Office of Archives and History

ARCHIVES INFORMATION CIRCULAR

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Raleigh, North Carolina

Civil War Records in the North Carolina State Archives

More than two million soldiers, Union and Confederate, African American and Caucasian, participated in the Civil War. The American Civil War is the subject of thousands of books and articles. The Civil War era, including events prior to the conflict, the actual war, and post-war Reconstruction, forms a principal field of study in the discipline of History. The North Carolina State Archives was created, in part, by the desire of the citizens of the state to preserve the heritage of Civil War veterans. Even so, only a small portion of the materials concerning the Civil War is available to researchers at the Archives.

This circular is designed primarily to help the researcher identify primary material that may prove useful in planning their research at the North Carolina State Archives. Staffing and budget limitations do not permit the Archives staff to undertake the research of unindexed records that is necessary to answer requests by mail for detailed information. Information about making requests by mail can be found at

<http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/archives/arch/mail.htm>. Inquirers who are not in a position to undertake the necessary research themselves may want to consider employing a professional researcher or genealogist for this task. The Archives maintains a list of individuals who have indicated a willingness to undertake research for a fee. This list is available on request from the State Department of Cultural Resources, Division of Archives and History, Archives and Records Section, 4614 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, N. C., 27699-4614. These researchers are not employees of the state of North Carolina, and all arrangements must be made directly with them.

State Archives

Researchers interested in sources in Raleigh should consult the *Guide to Civil War Records in the North Carolina State Archives* in the North Carolina State Archives (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1966) for descriptions of pertinent records. This reference guide describes materials located in state agency, county and organizational records, as well as newspapers, maps and the Civil War collection. Further, researchers may wish to consult the *Guide to Private Manuscript Collections in the North Carolina State Archives* (Raleigh: State Department of Archives and History, 1964), which includes descriptions of many private papers that are pertinent to Civil War research. This publication can be ordered from <http://www.ah.dcr.state.nc.us/sections/hp/catalog/>. In addition, there are available in the Search Room a number of unpublished and detailed descriptions (finding aids) of many collections and record groups for which only summary description is included in one of the published guides.

The Roll of Honor

One of the principal manuscript sources on information on Confederate soldiers from North Carolina is the Adjutant General's Roll of Honor in the State Archives. In accordance with a resolution of the General Assembly on December 20, 1862, a "Roll of Honor" was compiled to record the names of North Carolina's

Confederate troops who served during the war years. The project was placed under the supervision of Major James H. Foote of the Adjutant General's Department. Nine volumes were completed before the project was abandoned in 1864.

Each regiment and battalion was directed to complete a form similar to a muster roll but many apparently failed to do so. As a result, there is no roll of honor at all for many units and for others, only a fragmentary roll.

The rolls are arranged by regiment or battalion. There is no index to the individual names that have been included. For soldiers listed, the following information is usually given: name, rank, county of residence, date of entry into service, age, whether volunteer or conscript, date of death or discharge, and remarks.

Partial rolls exist for the 1st-40th, 42nd-57th, and 61st Regiments and for the 1st and 2nd Battalions. No other rolls are known.

Pension Records

North Carolina first enacted pension laws in 1885 for the benefit of Confederate veterans and their widows. The laws were amended in 1901 and on many subsequent occasions, expanding the scope of the law to include more beneficiaries [including a final revision that allowed former slaves to receive pensions]. The North Carolina State Archives has custody of applications for these pensions. These records are arranged in two series: Applications for Pensions under the Act of 1885, and Applications for Pensions under the Act of 1901. Typed indices to both of these series are available in the Archives Search Room. The indices are also available online through the Manuscript and Archives Reference System (MARS) at <http://ncarchives.dcr.state.nc.us>

Pension applications were usually completed in the county courthouse. The information included varies somewhat from county to county. The following information was usually included: date of application, applicant's name (and in the case of a widow, the husband's name), age, post office, company and regiment, date of enlistment, date and circumstances of wounds, nature and extent of disability, and an oath of eligibility under the pension act.

At first North Carolina gave pensions only to indigent veterans and widows. In later years, however, all Confederate veterans and widows became eligible for compensation. Pensioners usually served in a North Carolina unit but there were pensions granted for service in other states forces. North Carolina did not give pensions to Union veterans or widows.

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State of North Carolina
Tyrrell County.

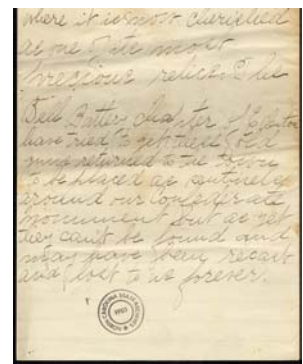
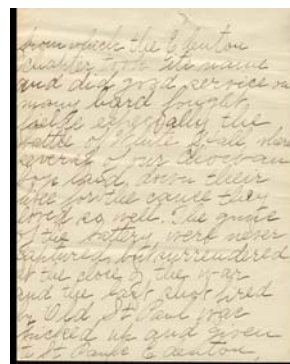
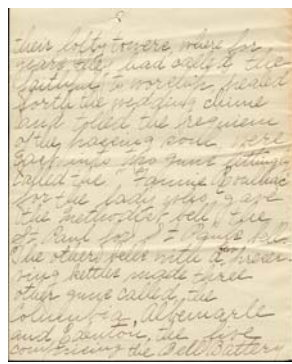
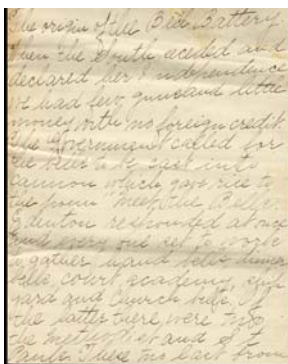
On this 3rd day of July 1911 personally appeared before me, W. M. Smithhouse, Clerk Superior Court in and for the county and State aforesaid, D. C. Sawyer, who resides at Sun Neck post office, Tyrrell County, and was being duly sworn says. That ~~appon~~ ~~before~~ he makes this statement and affidavit for and in behalf of his father, John A. Sawyer, whose physical condition is such that it is impossible for him to leave his home at Sun Neck N. C., and whose mental condition, owing to sickness is such that he could not make this affidavit. That his father, the said John A. Sawyer is 67 years old a resident of Sun Neck N. C., and is the identical John A. ~~the~~ Sawyer who enlisted in Co. B. 3rd Battalion N. C. State Troops (Edenton Bell Battery) on or about the ____ day of ____ 1863 to serve in the armies of the Confederate States, and who served in said service until the end of the war between the States. That his father, the said John A. Sawyer, has or holds no office wherever at all, and has not enough property to support him—that if he income from what property he has is entirely inadequate to support him, economically opitied. That his said father is very feeble and weak, is suffering from Bright's disease, and is rapidly becoming blind, so that he can scarcely see at all. In behalf of his said father he makes this affidavit, and prays that such pension as the laws of North Carolina permit be allowed to him.

D. C. Sawyer
Hearn is and subscribed before me this 3rd day of July, 1911.
W. M. Smithhouse C. S. C.

Example of a Confederate Veteran Pension Application

The Civil War Collection

The Civil War Collection is an artificial collection of records, public and private, relating to the war, which were assembled as a record group during the early years of the North Carolina Historical Commission (the forerunner of our current Division of Historical Resources). A detailed finding aid to the collection has been compiled and is available for the use of researchers in the Archives Search Room. Included in the Civil War Collection are petitions for presidential pardon, 1869-1868; bounty payrolls, 1862-1864; miscellaneous Quartermaster Department records, 1860-1865; muster rolls and pay records by regiment and unit, 1861-1865; and personal reminiscences, memoirs, essays, scrapbooks, and other miscellaneous records.



Example of Personal Reminiscence

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North Carolina
Pasquotank County.

I, Christopher W. Hollomell, of the
County & State aforesaid, do solemnly swear,
in presence of Almighty God, that I will
hereafter faithfully support & defend the
Constitution of the United States, and the
Union of the States thereunder; & that
I will, in like manner, abide by and
faithfully support all laws and pro-
clamations which have been made during
the existing rebellion with reference to
the emancipation of Slaves -
To help me God. -
Christopher Hollomell.

Given & subscribed before
me this 19th day of August A.D. 1865.
H. H. Hollomell, Commissioner
of Registration of
North Carolina

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Let the President
of the United States
be informed of the
fact that the
President of the
United States
has received the
following letter
from the
President of the
United States
dated the 19th
day of August
1865.

Let the President
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following letter
from the
President of the
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dated the 19th
day of August
1865.

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2. Aug. 18 1865

Mr. Hollomell, W. H. Hollomell.

Dear Sir:

I enclose
2. enclosed the application of
C. W. Hollomell, Esq. for special pardon.
He has been the best of citizens here,
& deserves a pardon as fully as
any citizen of North Carolina -
Yours most respectfully
J. M. Wood

Example of President Pardon